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Application No. 09/582,049 Confirmation No. 6845

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Date: 9 5 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application

: Group Art Unit: 1754

Garnier, et al.

Serial Number: 09/582,049

Examiner: Nguyen, Ngoc Yen M.

Filed: September 18, 2000

Attn. Docket No.: Garnier-1

Title: Silicon Refining Method and

Installation

Date: September 5, 2006

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Reply

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2006. A petition for a one (1) month extension of time to extend the due date for response is included at the end of this paper.

Kindly enter the following remarks and arguments, which begin on page 2 of this paper.